



U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center

Recreation Resources

Description of Technology

Tools are developed to efficiently and effectively plan and manage recreation resources to meet rapidly increasing and dynamic customer demand. Areas of expertise include economic impact assessment, customer service evaluation, recreation use and trend monitoring, visitor surveys, and regional demand analysis. Capabilities provide practical tools for assessing customer needs while monitoring economic impacts and benefits.

Benefits

Recreation opportunities on **Corps projects** are at the **nation's doorstep**, with over 80 percent of all Corps projects within 50 miles of a metropolitan area. Proximity to urban populations has resulted in intensive recreational use of water resources where visitors engage in many of the most **rapidly increasing recreational activities** in the U.S. Corps managers are challenged with serving over 30 percent of federal recreation visitors on only 2 percent of federal land. **Rapid changes** in visitor needs, expectations and use patterns, conflicts between recreation and other project purposes, and shared jurisdiction with other authorities add complexity to the execution of the recreation mission. Tools developed by ERDC are used by managers to adapt to these changes and deliver high quality recreation opportunities to the American public.

Significant Accomplishments

Recreation management techniques have been updated to provide managers with the capability to rapidly adapt facilities, and services reflect the needs and preferences of current recreation visitors to Corps projects. An array of software and associated procedures are available to recreation managers to track customer service, visitor preferences, recreation use and trends, and associated economic impacts. An overview of ERDC research capabilities, management tools, and other information for Corps rangers and managers can be found at <http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/>

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